

RECENT LITERATURE.

Chubb's 'The Birds of British Guiana.'¹—One of the most notable ornithological publications of the year is the first volume of Chubb's 'Birds of British Guiana.' This work is gotten out by Mrs. F. V. McConnell as a memorial to her late husband, and is based mainly upon the collections made by him during numerous visits to the Colony, where he had extensive interests. On two occasions, in 1894 and 1898 Mr. McConnell made extended trips to Mt. Roraima in the interior, so that his collection contained nearly all the species known from British Guiana. At the time of his death in 1914 he was engaged with Mr. Chubb in making a catalogue of the specimens which he proposed to publish as a contribution to our knowledge of the geographic distribution of the birds of this portion of South America. In following out his plan, Mrs. McConnell wisely decided to extend the scope of the work, to include all species known from the Colony and to draw when necessary upon other collections and previous publications, in order to make the work as complete an account as possible of the birds of British Guiana.

In asking Mr. Chubb to prepare the work she could not have made a better choice, while the publication of her husband's journal of the 1894 Roraima trip as an introduction adds much to the general interest of the volume. This first volume covers all the groups with the exception of the Passeres and treats of 349 species. Under each species are given a reference to the original place of publication of the name, and a synonymy of British Guiana references. Then come descriptions of the adults and young, and paragraphs on the 'Breeding Season,' 'Nest,' 'Eggs,' 'Range in British Guiana,' 'Extralimital Range' and 'Habits.' In many cases little or nothing is known concerning various of these subjects and this fact is stated, thereby indicating clearly what information is still a desideratum. While Mr. Chubb modestly states that the work is not intended to be a monograph of the birds of British Guiana, he seems to be thoroughly familiar with the literature of the subject and to have searched it exhaustively and with good judgment, in compiling the data that he presents.

In stating the range in British Guiana, all the localities represented in the McConnell collection are listed, as well as additional ones published by others, which is the only thoroughly accurate way of working out geographical distribution. The colored plates by H. Grönwold present

¹ The Birds of British Guiana. Based on the collections of Frederic Vavasour McConnell Camfield Place, Hatfield, Herts. By Charles Chubb, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., Zoological Department, British Museum. With a Preface by Mrs. F. V. McConnell. Vol. I. London: Bernard Quaritch, 11 Grafton Street, W. 1916. Royal 8vo. pp. i-iii + 1-528, colored pl. I-X, map, numerous text figures, frontispiece portrait and 16 half-tone plates of scenery, natives, etc. Edition limited to 250 copies. Price of Vol. I. £2. 2s. net.

attractive portraits of some of the more interesting birds of the Colony, while the 95 text figures illustrate structural characters of many of the genera.

The classification is the same as that followed by Brabourne and Chubb in their 'List of the Birds of South America,' but the nomenclature has been revised where further research rendered it necessary. Three forms are described as new, from specimens in the McConnell collection, viz.: *Ortygops notata duncani* (p. 74), Abary River, *Crecciscus melanophæus macconnelli* (p. 75), Bonasika River, and *Ciccaba superciliaris macconnelli* (p. 290) Ituribisi River.

Judging by the first volume Mr. Chubb's book is most welcome, and will be of the greatest value to students of neotropical birds, as well as to the general reader who wishes to ascertain what is known of the habits of the birds of this part of South America.

The recent activity in the study of the birds of this great southern continent has resulted in such a flood of descriptions of supposed new subspecies that to those not in the closest touch with the work, the whole subject seems a maze. A work, therefore, of the kind before us which brings together all the data bearing upon a particular area, and presents it in a systematic manner, seems especially timely.

The typography of the volume is good and we congratulate both Mr. Chubb and Mrs. McConnell upon the excellence of the work that they have brought out.—W. S.

Chapman's 'The Travels of Birds.'¹—Dr. Chapman's latest contribution to popular ornithology is a little text book on bird migration entitled 'The Travels of Birds,' illustrated by text cuts by E. J. Sawyer. The twelve chapters bear the following headings which indicate pretty clearly the subjects which are considered: 'Birds as Travellers'; 'Preparing for the Journey'; 'First Flights'; 'The Bird's Air Line'; 'The Bird's Time-table'; 'The Day Flyers'; 'The Night Flyers'; 'The Travels of the Bobolink'; 'Some Famous Bird Travellers'; 'The Dangers on the Way'; 'The Bird's Compass'; 'Why Birds Travel.' The style is clear and devoid of all technicalities while the information presented is based upon the author's wide experience and upon the writings of other ornithologists, notably those of the late Wells W. Cooke, to whose memory the little volume is appropriately dedicated. Each chapter concludes with a series of questions bearing upon the subject just considered, entitled 'Suggestions for Study.' The book will form an admirable one for nature study classes in schools or elsewhere, and will give the general reader a clear, 'up to date' knowledge of one of the most interesting phenomena of bird life.—W. S.

¹ *The Travels of Birds. Our Birds and their Journeys to Strange Lands.* Frank M. Chapman. The Bird's Historian. New York and London. D. Appleton and Company. [1916]. 12mo. pp. 1-160. Cloth. 40 cents net.